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YOUNGER WOMEN'S TASK FORCE



younger women's task force
A Project of National Council of
Women's Organizations

A PROJECT OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS
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YWTF Turns One-Year Old: *Looking Back on a Weekend that Started a Movement*

I would like to be the first to wish members of the Younger Women's Task Force happy anniversary and congratulations! It is hard to believe that we officially launched the Younger Women's Task Force less than a year ago!

On January 28th, 2005, 135 younger women from 42 different states responded to a call to "mobilize and organize younger women across the country, thereby defining our own women's movement." At that first national Meet-Up, YWTF members drafted the Younger Women's Issues Agenda — instrumental in communicating the needs of younger women to our nation's representatives — and launched YWTF's first eleven regional chapters across the country.

Today, YWTF boasts a dedicated membership of over 1,200 talented and inspiring women. Our eleven chapters nationwide are on the ground and organizing with members in over 30 states, whose efforts are proof every day of just how much is possible. **2005 has left us with so much to celebrate!**



Just a few of the 135 women who attended the 2005 YWTF Meet Up

YWTF is on the ground and touching younger women's lives in Arizona, Florida, Washington, California, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington D.C., Massachusetts, and Wisconsin — with active plans for chapters in central California and Georgia in the coming months. From younger women's political participation to domestic violence, equal pay and work/life balance, we are connecting younger American women with the issues they care about as we build this important movement. See page 6-8 for more regional news.

We've had our work cut out for us! YWTF NY launched *The Real Hot 100*, bringing young American women into the fight for fair, just, and accountable media in the U.S. by recruiting them to combat the popular notion that young women's best assets lie in their appeal to men. *The Real Hot 100* will feature younger women from around the country who are breaking barriers, fighting stereotypes, and making a difference in their communities. To know more, visit the *Real Hot 100* site: www.therealhot100.org. See page 3 for more on the Real Hot 100.

We are holding a second Meet-Up in January, this time in Arizona! YWTF Phoenix will be hosting the Arizona Younger Women's Meet-Up, where younger women from across the state will draft a Younger Women's Issues Agenda and present it to state legislators and policy leaders! The weekend will also involve intergenerational dinners and networking events, advancing younger women's leadership across the state of Arizona. See page 6 for more on the Arizona Meet-Up.

June 2005 gave birth to "Congressional Dialogue," the YWTF Chapter Directors' program to ensure that younger women have a voice in critical national policymaking conversations. During an intimate roundtable discussion with six leading Congresswomen, YWTF Directors discussed a variety of policy issues and their effects on younger women's lives — from reproductive rights to affordable healthcare, and family and medical leave.

We've been in the spotlight! YWTF's groundbreaking work has been featured in the *New Yorker*, the *Washington Post*, *Tompaine.com*, *The New York Metro*, and more. To see these articles, please visit us online at www.ywtf.org.

YWTF members are creating change in their own lives, in the lives of women in their communities, and in the lives of women nationwide through the innovative, grassroots programming that is the touchstone of this movement.

I want to thank all of you for dedicating so much of your own time to creating this new movement. You inspire me each and every day. I feel honored to be able to work with all of you.

Happy Holidays and Happy Anniversary!

Alison Stein
YWTF Founder and Project Director

Issues



the **REAL** hot 100

see how hot smart can be...

Media Justice

By: Gwen Beetham, Membership Director, YWTF-New York

REALLY hot women are smart. REALLY hot women work for change. REALLY hot women aren't afraid to speak their minds.

A group of young women in New York have come together to combat old stereotypes and make a statement about younger women's portrayal in mainstream media. These are no ordinary women—they are a group who met through the New York Metro Chapter of the Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF). They include writers, non-profit employees, and media staff who came together with a common goal - to show that media is not recognizing women for their accomplishments, but for their physical attributes. They think young women are better than that. And that is why they are creating some media of their own – the **REAL Hot 100**.

What is the **REAL Hot 100**? The **REAL Hot 100** is a project of feministing.com, Girls in Government, and the Younger Women's Task Force—organizations that are all run by and for younger women. The **REAL Hot 100** asks people around the country to nominate young women who are breaking barriers, fighting stereotypes, and making a difference in their communities or the nation to the **REAL Hot 100** list, which is posted on the group's website: www.therealhot100.org. Gwynn Cassidy, a co-founder of the project and Communications Director Elect for the NYC-YWTF, says this project "not only combats the popular notion that all young women have to offer is their ability to appeal to men, but it also highlights the important work young women are doing—work that is often overlooked."



Joanne Smith is a nominee for the Real Hot 100.

The **REAL Hot 100** website launched Monday, December 5th and nominations are already rolling in. Nominees so far include: a Reverend from Des Moines, Iowa, a woman in Chicago who opened a woman-friendly sex shop, healthcare workers, teachers, students, and many others. Husbands are nominating wives, mothers are nominating daughters, co-workers are nominating co-workers, and friends are nominating friends. Some women are also nominating themselves, which takes courage and conviction—definitely attributes of REALLY hot women.

An example of a Real Hot woman is Joanne Smith, age 30, from Brooklyn, NY. Joanne started Girls for Gender Equity (GGE) while completing her MSW at Hunter College, doing a part-time internship, and working to pay her way through school. She is passionate about working toward girls' and women's equality and had the brilliant idea to use sports as a niche to talk about issues like sexism, gender stereotypes, homophobia, sexual harassment, and being agents of social change. Joanne knows that power is not possessed, but exercised. And she's been exercising her power all over the NYC public school system while leading others in doing the same.

The **REAL Hot 100** selection committee will choose 100 women from these nominees that best represent the intelligence, drive and diversity of young women in the U.S., and will publish this list, in magazine format, timed to coincide with the release of "Maxim's Hot 100 list" next year (May/June 2006).



feministing.com



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Issues

THE SUPREME COURT: What's at Stake for Younger Women?

By: Alex Walden, Policy Director, YWTF—National Coordinating Committee

Question 1: I hear a lot about the importance of the Supreme Court, in the abstract but I am not sure I understand how the decisions made by the Supreme Court might affect my daily life. Can you explain how the Supreme Court works?

Answer: The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States. It is made up of 9 judges, a Chief Justice and 8 Associate Justices, which are nominated by the President then approved by the U.S. Senate. Recently, former Chief Justice William Rehnquist passed away and was replaced by Judge John G. Roberts. Judge Samuel Alito, from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, was nominated to replace Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. Since its inception, the Supreme Court has made landmark decisions that affect the everyday lives of Americans.

Question 2: What are some major decisions that have been decided by the Supreme Court that impact younger women?

Answer: The Supreme Court has ruled in decisions about gender discrimination in employment and education, domestic violence, the right to birth control and choice, sexual liberty, family and medical leave, parental rights, athletics on college campuses, free speech, and many more. Each decision interprets whether the laws as written or enforced are constitutional or otherwise valid or invalid. For example, in *US v. Morrison*, the court ruled that the provision of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that would allow women to sue their abusers, as written by Congress, was unconstitutional. Because of this decision, women no longer have a civil remedy under VAWA, limiting their rights.

Question 3: When the Supreme Court is mentioned why is everyone so hyped up about *Roe v. Wade*? How could the Supreme Court impact my right to choose?

Answer: *Roe v. Wade* is the landmark case from 1971 that establishes a constitutional right to obtain an abortion, basing that right in the right to privacy. Since privacy is not an enumerated right, meaning that it is not explicitly stated in the constitution, its existence is maintained by the Supreme Court decisions that uphold it. *Roe* and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, which affirmed the *Roe* decision, were decisions that were decided by 5-4 split.

It is not likely that the Court would overturn *Roe* as precedent, however, if the makeup of the Court shifts, decisions which begin to chip away at the right to privacy or existing freedom of choice could severely limit these freedoms which are now constitutionally protected. Should the court go as far as to overturn *Roe* in its entirety, decisions about the right to choose would be left to individual states. Many states have already attempted to pass laws which would limit the rights of minors regarding parental notification and married women requiring spousal notification which the Supreme Court will ultimately review. Should a state decide to, without the support of *Roe* as it now exists, they would even be able to eliminate the right to choose entirely for women in their state.

Question 4: What other rights are in jeopardy depending on the court's makeup?

Answer: The Supreme Court determines the constitutionality of every law passed by Congress, state/local legislatures, as well as lower court decisions. Although the Court only grants certiorari to approximately 80 cases per year, the decisions in these cases have a far-reaching effect. For example, last year the Court heard *Michigan*, which dealt with affirmative action in higher education. The court's recent decision in *Lawrence v. Texas* determined that sodomy laws were illegal and overturned a Texas law criminalizing consensual adult sexual practices. Because the Supreme Court decides which cases it hears, the makeup of the court determines which cases (and rights) will be decided and how the court will rule in those circumstances.

Events

Passing the Torch A Tribute to Dr. Martha Burk

By: Kate Farrar, Fundraising Director
YWTF– National Coordinating Committee

National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO) and the Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF) hosted a celebratory event on November 22nd to honor Martha Burk, former Chair of NCWO, and to support the next generation of women leaders. Martha has served for five years as Chair of the NCWO, leading the Council to increased membership and visibility. Dr. Burk has supported the creation of YWTF from its infancy and continues to foster YWTF's vision for younger women. Therefore, she graciously suggested that her goodbye party also serve as a fundraiser for the YWTF.

At the event, Dr. Burk had many close colleagues pay tribute to her including Christopher Turman and Barbara Reynolds, former columnist from USA Today, In



Members of the YWTF and NCWO members
applaud Martha Burk.

addition, Heidi Hartmann, President of the Institute for Women's Policy Research, presented Dr. Burk with a copy of the Congressional Record where she is honored by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney. Another highlight of the evening

occurred when Dr. Burk was presented a green "Masters" jacket in recognition of her fight against Augusta National Golf Club's policy that prohibits women from being members of the club.



Martha Burk shows off
her green "Masters"
jacket given to her in
appreciation of her work
against Augusta National.

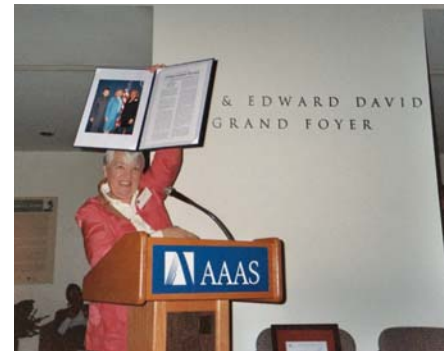
For more information on Dr. Martha Burk, our AZ-Phoenix Chapter Director, Kristin Bradfield interviewed Dr. Burk about what feminism means to her, what she feels is the

biggest issue with corporate America's treatment of women, and why she feels younger women are so important to the women's movement. To read this interview please link to: <http://www.bellaonline.com/articles/art37520.asp>.

In addition to honoring Dr. Burk, guests were able to view the new YWTF documentary that includes footage from the January Meet-Up, the July Chapter Director Retreat, and the Congressional Roundtable. The film features interviews with six YWTF Chapter Directors as well as members of Congress who attended the roundtable. The documentary will be available for viewing at the YWTF website, www.ywtf.org, in the near future.

The evening brought together over 80 attendees and in a sign of great generosity, 25 women leaders served as hosts for this event, committing \$100 each to YWTF. All contributions add up to a total of over \$4500 for the YWTF.

Thanks to all for making this event a success and cultivating resources for our chapter development. Please look forward to an exciting new fundraising event this Spring.



Heidi Hartmann displays Congresswoman
Maloney's Congressional Record Tribute to
Martha Burk .

Community

Paying Tribute to YWTF Chapter Directors

YWTF-DC Thanks Deva Kyle for her Dedication and Love

By: **Aisha Taylor, Outreach Director, YWTF-DC Metro**

I met Deva Kyle last January at the YWTF Founding event, the Meet-Up. We didn't get to know each other well until the end of the event, with a cold walk in the snow to the Metro-rail station. It did not take long, however, to notice the most important part of Deva's character, her huge heart and great love for people. As the months went by in our efforts to build the DC Metro Area Chapter of YWTF and our friendship, I saw other impressive aspects of Deva – her passion and commitment to justice in all areas, especially the women's and LGBTQ movements. I have also come to know her deep, personal commitment to changing the often-unjust U.S. criminal justice system.

An example of her dedication is what happened at the DC Chapter's first Board meeting. As Chapter Director, Deva invited us to her house for a potluck, and as we settled down to business after a delicious array of food, Deva pulled out six huge three-ring binders with colored and numbered sections, full of helpful information for our chapter and each individual Board position! I was (and continue to be) absolutely amazed at the amount of work she did for us! And she did not stop there – not by any means. When she knew she would not have time during the week, she drafted emails during the weekend to send to the DC Chapter, to make sure everyone had all the information and were set to receive at least two reminder emails. In addition to her work as Chapter Director of DC YWTF, Deva does many things on a national level with the National Coordinating Council generally, and with Alison particularly. Deva serves on the New Chapter Development Committee, and is currently working with three potential new chapters of YWTF!

Deva's vision is expansive and exciting! As a founding member, she has empowered many younger women to shape YWTF. Deva states, "YWTF is not focused on one issue because we are focused on bettering the lives of young women in all of their complexities. I strive toward having a diverse movement that is peopled with activists who care about changing their lives and this world, but don't have to care about feminist organizing as it has been imagined until now. I want YWTF to be our vessel for sweeping change. I envision this change being felt in the lives of the women we reach through various means: political, cultural, and communal." As a member of the DC Chapter, I have personally seen Deva's commitment to bettering local DC Metro area communities. As Chapter Director, she led us in creating a mission and vision statement, and toward creating a governing document. She led many hugely successful events, including October's Lunafest with over fifty people in attendance. She is also committed to consciousness-raising and the on-going education of young women on issues that affect us.

In short, Deva is the most educated and experienced feminist activist I know. She continues to surprise and endear me with her knowledge and activism, but more than that, with her huge heart and encompassing love. Deva, thank you for your inspiration and dedication as Chapter Director of DC YWTF! Thank you for your warmth and kindness as one of my dearest friends.



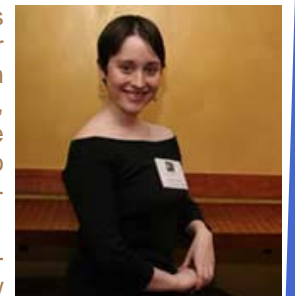
Deva Kyle has been the Chapter Director of YWTF DC Metro. And will be greatly missed.

Erin Lee Mock, Chapter Director, New York City Metro YWTF

By: **Julia Kohn, Communication Director, YWTF - New York**

Erin Lee Mock has served as Chapter Director for the New York City Metro YWTF since its formation at the YWTF Meetup in January of 2005. She was one of several women from the New York City area who traveled to DC to find out what the YWTF was all about. Almost a year later, Erin Lee will be stepping down as Chapter Director to pursue a PhD and other interests, and will continue to be an active member in 2006. This is a tribute to her outstanding leadership in 2005. Erin Lee has years of feminism behind her. She has been involved in feminist activism longer than she can probably remember, and with that experience comes a strong sense of vision and a desire to do better. One of the very first things she expressed upon being named Chapter Director was that she had seen too many younger women try to become involved in feminism only to be turned off by jargon, infighting, and ineffective leadership. She simply refused to repeat this pattern.

In its first year the New York City Metro Chapter has held monthly membership meetings, conducted voter education, implemented a survey on younger women's issues for all New York City mayoral candidates, written press releases and letters to the editor, and undertaken The Real Hot 100, an ongoing project that will critique Maxim magazine's Hot 100 list. Erin Lee's leadership was vital to the success of the Chapter during this nascent stage. Erin Lee has demonstrated the type of shared leadership that we all talk about, but rarely see. Those of us who have served on the Board of the New York City Metro Chapter over this past year are lucky to call her both a colleague and a friend.



Erin Lee Mock was very beneficial to the YWTF and we wish her the best of luck.

Erin Lee, on behalf of the Board and membership of the New York City Metro YWTF, thank you!

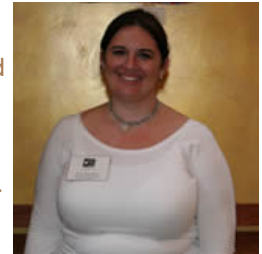
Regional News



Arizona

By: Kristen Bradford, Chapter Director, YWTF-Phoenix

The Greater Phoenix Chapter of the Younger Women's Task Force (YWTF) is hosting an AZ Meet-Up of over 100 women in their 20s and 30s from diverse backgrounds and cities all over Arizona January 26-28, 2006 at the Resort Suites in Scottsdale, AZ. The Meet-Up will feature a Networking cocktail party, action planning on younger women's issue topics such as: domestic violence, diversity, sexual orientation, education, reproductive rights, business and finance, healthcare, children and family, media and the arts, political representation, leadership and activism, and body image, Intergenerational dinners with prominent women of Arizona, Leaders and legislators luncheon, a sharing Circle where women will share stories, experiences, and reflections on what makes them proud to be a younger woman in AZ. This will all result in a collective AZ Younger Women's Action Agenda.



Kristen Bradford, Phoenix
Chapter Director

If you are interested in attending or getting involved with the Meet-Up, please email us at: ywtfphx@cox.net or call 623-363-6717. Applications will be available November 15th online at: www.ywtf.org.

Washington, DC Metropolitan Area

By Adriane Casalotti, Communication Director, YWTF-DC Metro

What were you for Halloween? A pumpkin? A witch? A pirate? Or maybe Cinderella...

Unmasking Cinderella, a costume party, film festival and networking event, featured the work of women in film to raise money for the Breast Cancer Fund and the Younger Women's Task Force. After months of planning, the event commenced on October 28, 2005.

The festival was an outstanding success with 50 attendees raising nearly \$2500 in funds from ticket sales, donations, program ads and raffle sales. Attendees were educated about women's experiences around the world through award-winning independent films by, for and about women. The event also served as a tool to present YWTF to the community. Additionally, the festival provided the means for established women within the film, video, and theatre businesses to connect with younger women interested in the business.

The films shown included those provided by *LunaFest*, a national film festival that showcases short films by, for and about women. The pieces touched issues of immigration, drug use, female genital mutilation, aging and sexuality, women in the military, and intergenerational support networks.

In addition to screening these nationally recognized pieces, the audience had the opportunity to hear from local women in the field. Filmmaker Rouane Itani, of *Aflama, LLC*, screened segments of her current documentary about female activists in Lebanese politics. Representatives from *Women in Film and Video of Washington*, DC, a women's resource for the film industry, and *Venus Theatre*, a professional guerilla feminist theatre also spoke.

Emily Skelton, acting fundraising director of the DC Metro Chapter, spearheaded the planning and preparation of the festival. "I wanted to do a LunaFest for several different reasons," she said. "To me the strength and importance behind YWTF is that it encourages younger women to strive for their goals and aims to assist them along the way." For Skelton, who is involved in the performing arts, *Unmasking Cinderella* was a way of combining her passions for drama and young women's empowerment.

Task force members, prominent activists, movie enthusiasts and other community members enjoyed the screening. Audience member, Caitlin Jennings, found the combination of women's issues and film to be a natural combination. "I really liked [the festival]," she said. "It brought out topics that are shunned in many commercial movies. I loved that each film showed different cultures and situations. But, they all had a common thread: they all expressed the unique perspective of women."

Regional News

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

By: Maureen White, Chapter Director, YWTF-Milwaukee

On November 27th, YWTF Milwaukee held “Desert Distractions”, a dessert potluck featuring the film “Palindromes”. The film traces the life of a pregnant teen woman and her decisions either to keep the baby or to have an abortion. YWTF members used this movie as a springboard to discuss current issues of reproductive rights and their impact on younger women in the Milwaukee community. The chapter is planning a follow-up meeting in January to design a specific project around the issues of teen pregnancy in their community.

Please see the review of “Palindromes” taken from *Time Out London*

On paper, Todd Solondz's latest attempt to deflate the suburban American dream suggests no drastic change of direction for the clued-up shock-master of American indie film – the filmmaker who delivered us the icky pleasures of 'Happiness' and 'Storytelling'. Indeed a link to Solondz's earlier films is made clear in the film's opening scene: it's the funeral following the suicide of Dawn Wiener, the teenage character at the heart of Solondz's 1995 film 'Welcome to the Dollhouse'. Is this a statement of intent from Solondz, a declaration that he is somehow breaking with his own filmmaking past?

It hardly seems so. This time, our protagonist is again a scion of the Wiener family. Dawn's cousin, Aviva, is a 12-year-old girl who falls pregnant as a result of an awkward fumble with Judah, a geeky family friend. Aviva's distraught mother Joyce (Ellen Barkin) swiftly arranges a trip to Dr Fleischer, the local abortion doctor. The operation complete, Aviva runs away from home, falling into the hands first of 'Joe', a paedophile trucker, and then Mama Sunshine, an amiable matron who runs a happy-clappy care home for sick and disabled children. Here, Aviva meets 'Joe' again (now calling himself 'Earl') and joins him on a pro-life mission to murder an abortion doctor.

Miami, Florida

By: Sophie Brion, Chapter Director, YWTF-Miami

ERA RATIFICATION BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA – Members of YWTF Miami Metro Chapter (WMN) have developed a strategy and are in the process of planning their campaign to lobby Florida State Senators and members of the Florida House of Representative to pass SCR 204 and HCR 8005, respectively, in the 2006 Florida Legislative Session. The strategy WMN is using is based on the recommendations of Claudia Miro, a former legislative aide to a Florida State Senator and a Florida Representative. Ms. Miro, now a legislative advocate for the South Florida Water Management District, met with WMN and taught the group how to achieve policy change through our state's legislative process. She counseled the group on how to build relationships with legislative aides, when to meet with various legislators, which legislators to meet, how to approach legislators, how to follow-up and various other aspects of the lobbying process.



Members of YWTF-Miami Chapter

WMN is currently in the process of developing a four page, succinct and clear packet of information to engage the Miami-Dade and Broward County legislative delegation with the two ERA bills and encourage them to co-sponsor the bills as well as advocate for hearing of the two bills. The packet will include a Fact Sheet (attached), a recent news article (attached), a copy of the petition text (currently being drafted) that will be posted on petition.com and an information sheet about WMN with a list of its members. Along with this packet, WMN will deliver to each legislator a small gift of \$0.80 with a catchy slogan (still in development) in order to highlight one of the reasons why ratification of the ERA in Florida is important for Florida's economy. Other creative ideas to link the ERA to current and anticipated future issues are also being developed. WMN members are currently identifying their respective legislators. Groups of WMN members will begin making appointments with each legislator after printing of our packet. Visits to each legislator's local office will take place December 2005 - February 2006. With funding, we will also make one group trip to Tallahassee during the 2006 legislative session.

Regional News

Northeastern Pennsylvania

By: Andi McClanahan, Chapter Director, YWTF-NEPA

The Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Chapter of YWTF is still working on getting off of the ground. We are in the process of organizing meetings in various parts of NEPA including the Lehigh Valley, Pocono Region, and the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton area.

Over the past several months, the main focus has been on a policy issue affecting all individuals in the state of Pennsylvania—the amendment to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1955 (PHRA). Pennsylvania Human Relations Act of 1955 (PHRA) prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religious creed, ancestry, age or national origin by employers, employment agencies and labor organizations. PHRA does not prohibit or make it illegal for employers in Pennsylvania to ask potential employees the questions, “Are you married?” and “Do you have children?” during job interviews.

Kiki Peppard of Effort, PA, began a letter writing campaign to legislators over ten years ago after she moved to Northeastern Pennsylvania and felt she had been discriminated against by various employers once they discovered she was a single mother. After several years, legislation was introduced to amend PHRA in consecutive legislative sessions but the amendment has not moved out of committee. The amendment would simply prohibit employers from asking job applicants about their marital or familial status. Marital status would be defined as, “single, married, divorced, separated, or widowed.”

The amendment to the PHRA is imperative because as Edward McCaffrey, Program Analyst for the Philadelphia District Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission stated in a speech to the Members of the House State Government Committee of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, “There is no federal law which prohibits employment discrimination because of familial status or marital status. The agency simply has no authority to look into such a charge.”



Andi McClanahan (chapter director for Northeastern PA) and Andrea Tanner (chapter director for Philadelphia) at the Pennsylvania Governor's Conference for Women in November.

Philadelphia

By: Andrea Tanner, Chapter Director, YWTF-Philadelphia

The Philadelphia chapter officially launched in October with a Networking Happy Hour/Business Card Exchange at Lucy's in Center City. Approximately 20 people attended the kick-off to learn more about YWTF and meet like-minded women. Attendees mingled and inquired to me about the mission, structure and future of YWTF – Philadelphia. Everyone expressed an interest in staying involved, and some brainstorming for future chapter events even got a jump-start over our drinks! Overall, it was a great success.



Members of the Philadelphia chapter enjoy themselves at the Networking Happy Hour/Business card Exchange in October.

The follow-up to this inaugural event was an organizational meeting for the chapter, which also highlighted special guest speaker Tracy Sturdivant, Vice President of The White House Project. Tracy provided an overview of the VOTE RUN LEAD initiative of The White House Project, which encourages younger women to envision themselves as voters, activists, and candidates. Following her presentation, the

chapter spent some time brainstorming about issues that are important to the younger women of Philadelphia, and identified some specific topics that can create new programs in the next few months. We hope to host: a networking/social event for women who work in the healthcare field, a workshop on budgeting and investing, and a program that draws on the work of the White House Project - getting women to run for office!

The city of brotherly love is now home to a new sisterhood of active, interesting, and diverse women who want to improve the lives of younger women throughout the Philadelphia metro area. Stay tuned for lots more news from this new and developing chapter!



Tracy Sturdivant, Vice President, The White House Project

Research Review

Coming of Age in America, Part I and II,

A poll by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research Inc., June and October, 2005

By: Misha Werschkul, Research Director, YWTF— National Coordinating Committee

This two-part survey looks at Generation Y's opinions about education, abortion, military service, war, family, and marriage. Part I is based on a survey of 1,292 Americans aged 18 to 25, conducted April 21-28, 2005. Part II is based on an internet survey of 892 adult respondents aged 18-24, conducted August 10 -17, 2005.

Key findings of the surveys include:

- 55 percent of women aged 18 to 24, and 42 percent of men wanted to get married in the next 5 years. However, the authors suggest that the "women of Gen-Y lead the generation's redefinition of marriage." They find that 45 percent of women in this age group agreed with the statement that you see so many unhappy marriages that you begin to question it as a way of life, compared to only 26 percent of men. And 63 percent of women felt that it is all right for a couple to live together without intending to get married, compared with 56 percent of men.
- Younger Americans also challenged ideas about education, with 28 percent of younger men and women feeling that a college education is no longer enough to guarantee a good living in this economy. In addition, 82 percent of younger people said that they would like go back to school some day, and only 31 percent felt they had enough education to fulfill their goals.
- On the topic of abortion, 71 percent of younger women and 58 percent of younger men said that a woman has her reasons for having an abortion and should not be judged for that decision. Young people are also more likely than that national average to think that abortion should remain legal.

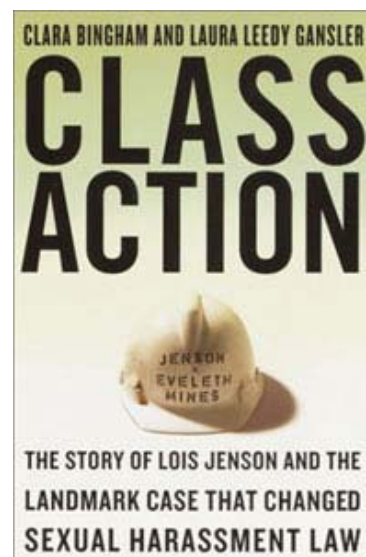
Book Review

Class Action, by Clara Bingham and Laura Leedy Gansler. Published in 2002 by First Anchor Books.

This book tells the true story of Lois Jenson, one of the first women to be hired to work at an iron mine in northern Minnesota in the 1970s, who fought the first sexual harassment class action case in the United States. The book inspired the new movie, *North Country*, starring Charlize Theron, Frances McDormand, and Sissy Spacek.

The story is a compelling one, from her first day in the mine to filing her complaint with the EEOC in 1984 and fighting her case in court. "For although her coveralls, boots, hard hat, and protective glasses had effectively desexed her, everywhere the foreman took her, the miners stopped what they were doing, gathered together in small groups, and stared. She didn't know a man there, yet everyone seemed to know her."

This book and the film provide are excellent opportunity to talk about continued gender discrimination in the workplace.



The YWTF Newsletter will be a quarterly publication containing updates on Task Force activities and efforts across the country and highlighting issues of interest to Task Force members. Thank you for reading, and please visit our website for more information at www.ywtf.org.